CD/2056

# Conference on Disarmament

3 March 2016
English
Original: English and Spanish

## Note verbale dated 26 February 2016 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament by the Permanent Mission of Argentina in its capacity as coordinator of the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean transmitting the communiqué issued on 14 February 2016 concerning the forty-ninth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, in its capacity as coordinator for the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in Geneva, presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué concerning the forty-ninth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which was adopted by the member States of OPANAL on 12 February 2016 (Inf. 02/2016).

The Permanent Mission of Argentina requests that this communiqué be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

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# Communiqué

## 49th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

1. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean — Treaty of Tlatelolco — is commemorating the 49th Anniversary of its conclusion, which took place on 14 February 1967; as well as the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), established pursuant to Article 7 of the Treaty.

2. Over a period of 49 years as the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to be established in a densely populated region of the world, Latin America and the Caribbean has remained faithful to the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

3. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), concluded over a year after the Treaty of Tlatelolco, thereby received from Latin America and the Caribbean the fundamental endowment of a region without nuclear weapons, strengthened by its formal proclamation as a Zone of Peace at the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 29 January 2014.

4. The Treaty of Tlatelolco is the first legally-binding instrument prohibiting the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition, by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, as well as the receipt, storage, installation, deployment or any form of possession of any nuclear weapons.

5. The Member States of OPANAL welcome the establishment of the open-ended working group by virtue of resolution 70/33 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 7 December 2015. This group shall convene in Geneva in 2016. We undertake to actively work in said forum, in a proactive and constructive manner, in keeping with the respective political and moral leadership of Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Like the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which states in its preamble that Latin America and the Caribbean is convinced that nuclear weapons — the terrible effects of which are suffered indiscriminately and inexorably by military forces and civilian population alike — constitute, through the persistence of the radioactivity they release, an attack on the integrity of the human species and ultimately may render the whole earth uninhabitable; the Member States of OPANAL continue to raise awareness on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and on the need to eliminate them as the only guarantee against their use or threat of use.

7. Pending the attainment of the objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the international community must urgently make the necessary decisions for:

(a) the launching of a multilateral diplomatic process for the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner and within a multilaterally agreed timeframe;

(b) the effective cessation of nuclear tests of any kind, including subcritical tests and those conducted using supercomputers, and the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), dependent on the essential signature and/or ratification by Annex II States;

(c) the immediate cancellation of all plans for the modernization and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons;

(d) the universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and strict compliance with it, including the obligations undertaken under Article VI;

(e) the establishment of new zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass-destruction, particularly in the Middle East and on the Korean Peninsula, as well as in other regions in the world;

(f) the adoption of a universal legally-binding instrument on negative security assurances;

(g) the elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in doctrines, security policies and military strategies;

(h) the prevention and prohibition of the arms race in outer space;

(i) banning fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, as well as the elimination of existing weapons;

(j) strengthening education and information about the imminent danger posed by nuclear weapons and about the negative consequences of the possession of nuclear weapons on international relations and for peace and security in the world.

8. With the authority and legitimacy bestowed by that political initiative undertaken 49 years ago upon the States Party to the Treaty, the Latin American and Caribbean region remains at the forefront of the endeavours to free the world from the threat posed by nuclear weapons through the elimination of all nuclear arsenals, in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner.

The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), with its headquarters in Mexico City, ensures compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco and consists of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States, all of them Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.